

Laughlin members help fix up school, page 9

Border Eagle

Vol. 52, No. 16

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Courtesy photo

Break a leg...

Laughlin members (from left) Terra Wade, Staff Sgt. Scott Fooshee, and Brenda Schamus join Cedric Garcia and Scott VanLandingham on stage for their upcoming Upstagers production "It Runs in the Family." Eight of the 12 cast members are from Laughlin. The show begins at 8 p.m. today at Paul Poag Theatre in Del Rio. Three other shows are scheduled for Saturday, May 30 and April 1. Tickets can be obtained at Laughlin Tickets and Tours office, 298-5830.

Newslines

Ice cream social

In recognition of National Volunteer Week, Laughlin will conduct an Ice Cream Social to honor all of its volunteers.

The social will be held from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Wednesday at the 47th Mission Support Squadron patio.

All volunteers, family members and their supervisors are invited to attend.

Enlisted promotion ceremony

An enlisted promotion ceremony is set for 4 p.m. April 30 at Club Amistad.

All base members are invited to attend.

Closures

The Family Support Center will be closed from noon to 4:30 p.m. April 30 for training. For Air Force Aid Society emergencies, please call 703-0720.

The finance office will be closed from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 30.

Retreat/graduation

A formal retreat ceremony for Specilized Undergraduated Pilot Traing Class 04-08 is set for 5 p.m. Thursday in front of the wing headquarters building.

SUPT Class 04-08 will graduate at 10 a.m. April 30 in Anderson Hall auditorium.

All base members are invited to attend both events.

Deployment stats

Deployed:	27
Returning in 30 days:	14
Deploying in 30 days:	0

Mission status

(As of Tuesday)

Days behind or ahead:

T-37, -4.85	T-1, 1.98
T-38, -4.47	T-6, -4.33

Mission capable rate:

T-37, 90.7%	T-1, 75.5%
T-38, 72.1%	T-6, 82.0%

Alcohol abuse: treatment saves careers, lives

Compiled from staff reports

A majority of active-duty members here who responded to a recent survey believe seeking help for an alcohol problem would be detrimental to their Air Force careers.

More than 500 officers and enlisted members took a 47th Flying Training Wing e-mail survey in February and March that asked, "Would fear of career consequences prevent you from seeking help from an Air Force medically-sponsored treatment program if you believed alcohol consumption was a problem for you or a friend?"

Sixty-two percent of officers and 51 percent of enlisted members who replied to the survey said, "Yes."

"We don't know whether the respondents were considering long- or short-term effects," said Chief Master Sgt. Ted Pilihos, 47th FTW command chief master sergeant. "But, in either case our people need to see the value of seeking help to prevent tragic outcomes."

Col. Keith Traster, 47th FTW vice commander, also emphasized the need for people with alcohol-related issues to have an avenue for dealing with their problems.

"There are a variety of base agencies available to help people cope with their issues," Colonel Traster said. "A person's fear of jeopardizing their Air Force career by seeking help for their alcohol problem is insignificant compared to the chances they take by not getting help. We are genuinely concerned about everyone's wellbeing, and would rather help people confront their problem than see them risk terrible consequences that could impact their personal lives as well as others."

In the past, seeking assistance was too closely associated with career consequences in the Air Force, partly because alcohol and drug abuse programs fell under the old 'Social Actions' program, which in turn was under the umbrella of personnel, said Dr. Heather Ranger-Kobel, 47th Medical Operations Squadron staff psychologist.

"Alcohol and drug abuse assistance programs now fall under the medical group, because substance abuse problems are recognized by the Air Force and the health care industry in general, largely as a serious, but treatable, health epidemic as opposed to a personnel or administrative issue," she said.

If someone is on flying status, carries a weapon or must maintain a security clearance to fulfill his or her duties, there could be short-term implications, she added.

"But, approximately 99 percent of those members who come through our door go right back to work fully functioning, the same day," she said.

According to Dr. Ranger-Kobel, an active-duty member generally receives education and returns to duty if an alcohol-problem diagnosis is not made. If a diagnosis is made, she said the focus switches to getting the member the help he or she needs to function normally and prevent further harm to them-

See Alcohol, page 4

Military members accountable for actions



Commander's Corner

By Lt. Col. Steven Moore
85th Flying Training Squadron commander

If you look up the definition of "Accountable" in the dictionary you will most likely find a definition something similar to the following: Accountable: subject to giving an account; Answerable; capable of being accounted for; explainable as well and most importantly it also states see responsible.

As one reads or watches the headlines of many of the world's more sensationalized investigations and scandals, we usually find the key figures defending themselves via one

excuse or another. They are usually seen avoiding blame by trying to shift responsibility for their actions or lack of action in another direction or avenue. In the profession of arms we can never take this path; we cannot forget that we are accountable to both our leaders and subordinates for our actions. We have a higher calling and our success in both the training environment and combat operations demands each of us be accountable for our actions.

As I brief each of my students when they join my squadron, as well as my flight commanders when they take command of their flights, I, as their commander, hold them completely accountable for all of their actions, both good and not so good. I also explain that I hold myself accountable to both them and my leadership for everything that happens in the 85th Flying Training Squadron.

Accountability is a tenant we as members

of the Department of Defense must embrace. The nation we defend holds our senior leaders responsible for the actions they take in defending our country. From day one all of our military training, whether it's basic training, the Air Force Academy, ROTC, Officer Training School or AMS, teaches us to be responsible and accountable for our actions.

Accountability is critical to all professional military organizations if they are to maintain good order and discipline. The knowledge of being able to hold someone accountable for his or her actions builds trusts within as well as strengthens any organization.

President Harry S. Truman maintained a sign on his desk with the quotation "The buck stops here." It eventually became his unofficial motto. The intent of his motto was to ensure all his subordinates and his constituency knew that he took responsibility for his actions and he expected the same from them.

People should learn signs, cause of child abuse to help

By Karen Doss
47th Medical Operations Squadron Family Advocacy intervention specialist

In 2001, based on data submitted by Child Protective Service agencies to the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Human Services, three-million referrals concerning the welfare of approximately five-million children were made throughout the country. Of these referrals, 28 percent resulted in a finding that a child was being mistreated or at risk for maltreatment.

Is not one abused child one too many?

So what are these abusive parents doing that non-abusive parents do not?

■ Unrealistic expectations of children – Such as expecting a 6 to 12 month old to be toilet trained; a preschooler to prepare food and do housework; young school age children to provide for the needs of the younger siblings. When children fail to meet these parental expectations, they perceive themselves as worthless, unacceptable and unlovable.

■ Inability to be empathic with no

awareness of how to respond to a child's needs in an appropriate manner – Children who are neglected and whose basic need for unconditional love goes unmet begin to believe the world is a cold and hostile place. This robs children of the opportunity to develop self-confidence and to believe they have intrinsic value.

■ Value physical punishment – These abusive parents believe children must be made to respect authority and strongly defend their right to use physical force. Studies appear to indicate that abusive parents intentionally use

physical punishment; that it is not a momentary loss of control.

■ Parental Role Reversal – Instead of the parents being responsible for meeting the needs of the children, the parents expect the children to be sensitive to their needs and charge them with the responsibility of making the parents happy. Thus the children grow up believing their role is to meet the needs of others with no expectations that their own needs will be met in return.

Here are five things people

See **Abuse**, page 3

Border Eagle

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Submissions can be e-mailed to: timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil or sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil.

View From the Top: AFAF shows pledge to caring

By **Gen. Donald G. Cook**
*Air Education and Training
Command commander*

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE – The men and women serving in Air Education and Training Command are renowned for their commitment to excellence in everything we do. We are also recognized for our commitment to caring.

Time and again, you and your fellow teammates in the First Command have demonstrated uncommon generosity and have taken every opportunity to help others in need, especially those in our Air Force family through your generous contributions to the Air Force Assistance Fund.

This service-wide campaign is designed to help airmen and their families with emergency assistance, education grants, volun-

teer childcare, community enhancement programs and assisted living for our veterans and their widowed spouses.

AFAF gives airmen the opportunity to directly help other airmen by contributing to four charitable organizations that benefit active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired Air Force people and their families, including surviving spouses. The organizations are the Air Force Aid Society, Air Force Enlisted Village, Air Force Village Indigent Widow's Fund, and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation.

In 2003, the Air Force's contributions totaled \$5.1 million, 122 percent of the Air Force goal. This year's goal of \$5.2 million was set to ensure these charities have the necessary funds to continue supporting our Air Force



Photo by Joel Martinez

Gen. Don Cook (center), commander of Air Education and Training Command, Lt. Gen. John D. Hopper Jr. (left), AETC vice commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Karl Meyers, AETC command chief master sergeant, sign their 2004 Air Force Assistance Fund pledge forms April 13 in the commander's office at Randolph Air Force Base.

family during such hardships as deployment, illness and death.

Last year, AETC contributed over \$1 million to the AFAF campaign. During the same year, people in AETC received well over \$2 million of assistance in one form or another.

As we near the end of this year's AFAF campaign, I am very proud the people of our command have again so willingly and generously participated in this very worthwhile opportunity to help others. I realize some of our wings have already closed out their individual campaigns for this year, but we still have a few weeks to go before the campaign officially ends May 7.

Opportunities exist for all our people to participate if they so desire. Thus far during this year's campaign about 30 percent of those eligible to participate have done so.

The decision to contribute to the AFAF is an individual choice, but I ask that you remember this campaign is where we help our own and to favorably consider taking an opportunity to participate in this very worthwhile endeavor. Your contribution directly benefits everyone in the Air Force family, and no one knows when they will need to outreach to AFAF through their first sergeant, commander, supervisor or friend.

Abuse, from page 2

can do now to help prevent child abuse:

- **Reach Out** – Be a friend to other parents. Offer assistance to a struggling parent by showing you understand. Talk to neighbors and encourage a supportive spirit by agreeing to look out for each other's children.
- **Raise the Issue** – Wear a blue ribbon and tell people that it stands for the prevention of child abuse and neglect (stop by family advocacy for your ribbons).

- **Remember Risk Factors** – They are highest in families where parents:
 - Seem to be having personal and financial problems
 - Are isolated from their families or the community
 - Have difficulty controlling anger and stress
 - Are dealing with physical or mental illness issues
 - Abuse alcohol and drugs
- **Recognize Warning Signs** - There may be

- no physical signs of abuse, however a child's behavior may be a signal that abuse is going on:
 - Nervousness around adults
 - Sudden and/or dramatic changes in personality or activities
 - Frequent and/or unexplained bruises or injuries
 - Low self-esteem
- Report suspected neglect or abuse to 1-800-252-5400 or to Family Advocacy at 298-6422

Actionline
298-5351 or
actionline@laughlin.af.mil

Col. Dan Woodward
47th Flying Training Wing commander

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By

including your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also useful if more information is needed to pursue your inquiry. We will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved. Please keep e-mails brief.

If your question relates to the gen-

eral interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

Below are some useful telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

AAFES	298-3176
Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299

Clinic	298-6311
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

Air Force announces Thrift Savings Plan open season

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE – Civilian and military employees can sign up for, or change, their Thrift Savings Plan contribution amounts during the open season now to June 30.

“TSP is a long-term retirement savings plan which everyone should consider,” said Senior Master Sgt. Felipe Ortiz, superintendent of the Air Force Personnel Center

contact center here. “It’s a great supplement to military- and civilian-retirement plans.

“It’s also important to note that TSP is not limited to investing in stocks,” Sergeant Ortiz said. “People can choose safer government securities as well.”

This open season applies only to regular contributions. It does not include catch-up contributions, as they are not

tied to open seasons, said Janet Thomas, of AFPC’s civilian benefits and entitlements service team.

The plan offers investors the chance for lower taxes each year they contribute while not having to pay taxes on earnings until they reach retirement.

“Eligible employees can take out loans and make in-service withdrawals from their

TSP accounts,” Ms. Thomas said. “And you can keep your account, even if you leave military or federal civilian service.”

Contribution elections/changes made between April 15 and June 12 take effect June 13, for both military and civilian people. Changes made on or after June 13 become effective at the beginning of the pay period following the one in which the election is made for

civilians and the following month for military.

More information about TSP can be found in the booklet “Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan” on the TSP home page under civilian or uniformed services TSP Forms and Publications.

(Courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center News Service)

Alcohol, from page 1

selves or others.

The doctor emphasized that, regardless of the problem, the best way to seek help is through self-referral.

“It’s a win-win situation when the member realizes there’s a problem and seeks help,” she said. “The problem can be addressed before any negative or harmful events happen. Additionally, the Air Force is really taking a stand to recognize self-referral as a strength, not a weakness, and I have been reassured of that through my interactions with our commanders here at Laughlin.”

Aside from that, the doctor said often times self-referrals are for mental health-related issues.

“In the course of discussing the issues, the member realizes he or she has been using alcohol to deal with the problem,” she said.

On the other hand, if an active-duty member is involved in any alcohol-related incident, the member is automatically referred to the Alcohol Drug Abuse Prevention Treatment program by his or her first sergeant or commander. ADAPT is a commander-driven program designed to prevent, educate and treat alcohol-related issues.

“It has been my experience that more often than not, individuals involved in an alcohol-related incident receive refresher training on alcohol and substance abuse,” said Master Sgt. Dave Smith, 47th Mission Support Group first sergeant. “The amount of training necessary is determined by personnel at ADAPT. Fortunately, this often prevents folks from getting into further incidents and trouble.”

An incident could involve anything from an altercation at a downtown nightclub to being cited for driving under the influence. In worst-case scenarios, the

Base agencies available to those who need help

Compiled from staff reports

Since the Air Force treats alcoholism as a treatable disease, base agencies have developed programs to assist people and help them overcome alcohol-related problems.

One of the programs is Alcohol Drug Abuse Prevention Treatment, which provides clinical and non-clinical services.

Individuals in ADAPT’s non-clinical services receive a minimum of six hours of education. Topics include Air Force standards, legal and administrative consequences of abuse, decision-making and goal setting, impact of substance abuse on self and others, and family dynamics and motivational enhancement.

Clinical services are provided to people who meet a certain level of criteria for alcohol abuse or dependence. Those individuals are entered into substance abuse treatment with the

level and intensity of care determined by the ADAPT program manager.

The primary objective of ADAPT is to promote readiness, and health and wellness through the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, said Dr. (Capt.) Heather Ranger-Kobel, 47th Medical Operations Squadron staff psychologist.

In addition to ADAPT, people can also use a variety of other base agencies and programs to seek help.

Life Skills is one program, which uses an educational approach that focuses on personal responsibility and responsible choices.

Counseling includes setting goals for developing social skills and helping a person enjoy activities without using alcohol. Stress management techniques or relaxation training may be provided as alternate coping skills.

When alcohol involves problems within a person’s family, the family advocacy program is a place to seek help.

Other avenues for help with alco-

hol problems include the chaplain’s staff and the family support center.

“All chaplains provide 100 percent privileged communication that cannot be revealed,” said Capt. Kenneth Fisher, a Protestant chaplain assigned here. “We would provide spiritual counseling that addresses underlying personal problems as an intervention for the counselee to avoid alcohol as a coping mechanism.”

The chaplain said he would refer counselees, upon their permission, to other base agencies such as ADAPT and Life Skills.

Just as the chaplain staff conducts referrals, so does the family support center.

“Family support does not provide direct assistance,” said Bobby Barrera, family support center director. “We would refer customers to other base resources. Information and referral services would be our primary role.”

incident could result in a criminal record, serious injury, or even death.

There are other instances, which may involve the commander referring a person to ADAPT. For example, a member has family issues, such as divorce, and starts drinking a lot to cope with his or her problems. Because of the member’s drinking and related inability to sleep, inability to concentrate or focus, his or her duty performance declines, and the member is continuously late for work.

Dr. Ranger-Kobel stressed that when it comes referring people to ADAPT, the commander is there in a supportive role, not a punitive role.

“In the duration of my time here at Laughlin,” she said, “I have not seen a single commander who wasn’t supportive of a troop in the ADAPT program.”

Lt. Col. Robert Craven, 47 Operations Support Squadron commander, can attest to being ready to lend a hand if someone needed help with an alcohol-related problem.

“There are few things more important than taking care of those who serve,” he said. “ADAPT, and numerous other Life Skills programs, are readily available to help and have proven highly effective. More importantly, it’s critical to realize that only good can come from taking advantage

of these professional programs. I’ve referred dozens of Airmen (officer and enlisted) to ADAPT and there have been no negative consequences or repeat offenses that would cause long-term career and family impact. I admire those who see ADAPT and other Life Skills programs for the positive programs they are. I especially admire those who take the brave step and self-refer. I’ve had two that have self-referred and, as a result, their careers, and quite possibly, their families and their lives were saved. Early intervention is key and it’s incumbent on all of us to take advantage of the help that’s available. You may very well save a career or a life.”

Leaders approve new civilian-personnel plan

By K.L. Vantran
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Defense Department senior leaders approved the plans for the new national security personnel system, an official announced here April 14.

Secretary of the Navy Gordon R. England, who heads the project, made the announcement.

The system, authorized by the fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act, will introduce changes in the way the department hires, pays, promotes, disciplines and fires its civilian employees.

Six teams of about 25 to 30 people, representing various agencies within the department, spent several weeks

reviewing the system, said Secretary England at a meeting with reporters in the Pentagon. Representatives from the Office of Personnel Management and Office of Management and Budget also participated. The teams received briefings from Department of Homeland Security and General Accounting Office officials.

Earlier this month, Secretary England and David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, sent a letter to the department’s civilian employees on the progress of the system.

“The task before us is to design a transformed system for the department’s 700,000 civilian employees that supports our national security

mission while treating workers fairly and protecting their rights,” the letter stated. “We want to ensure that all stakeholders in the new system – including civilian employees (and) managers ... have an opportunity to provide their thoughts, ideas, views and concerns.”

The consensus for the journey ahead, Secretary England said, includes a full partnership with the OPM.

“They’re working with us, providing assistance and expertise, in developing regulations which are to be signed by the defense secretary and the director of OPM,” he said.

“We look forward to this effort,” said George Nesterchuk, OPM’s senior adviser to the director for the Department of Defense. “It

will take awhile, but we’re going to do it right. The inclusion of employees and key stakeholders is vital to the success of this effort.”

While the system is mission-first, it is also employee-centric, and Secretary England said he encourages input from employees. Mechanisms such as Web pages and town meetings will not only provide information to the work force, but also will allow for feedback.

The plan also calls for “aggressive, but event-driven schedules,” he said. The first milestone is to have a labor-relations draft regulation to the Federal Register by November.

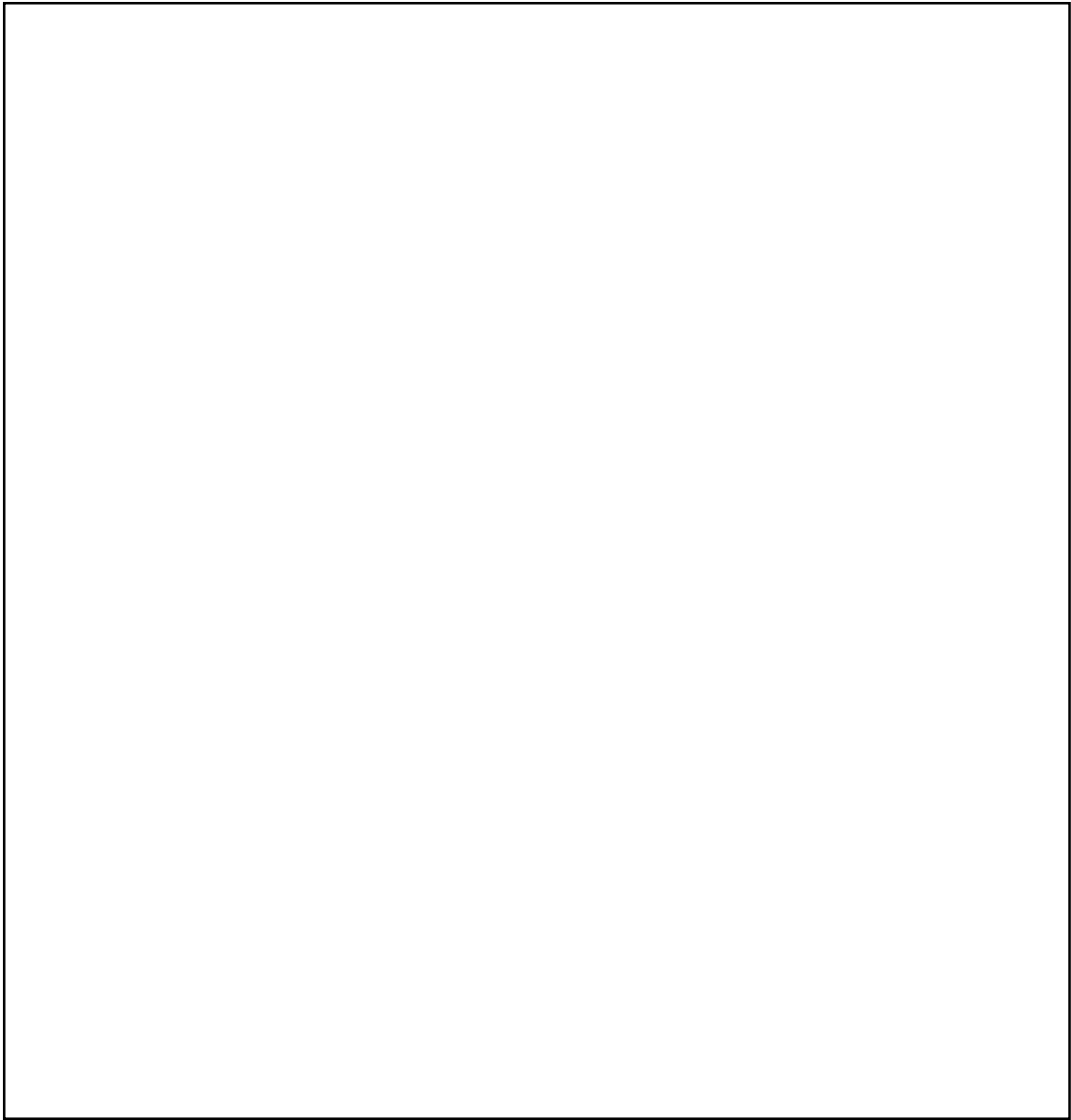
“We have schedules, but they could be longer (or) they could be shorter, because it’s


event-driven, and it depends on how we (complete) each step,” Secretary England said. “We won’t go to the next step until we finish, because we are going to do it right. We won’t rush it.

“We’ll go through this in stages and phases,” he said. “We’ll get feedback, and we’ll keep improving the program as we proceed.”

Secretary England said the system is a great opportunity for employees, the Defense Department and America.

“It’s a great opportunity to have a terrific program for our employees, and I’m convinced we will,” he said. “The process will work, and the product will be one that everyone will want to embrace and be proud to embrace.”





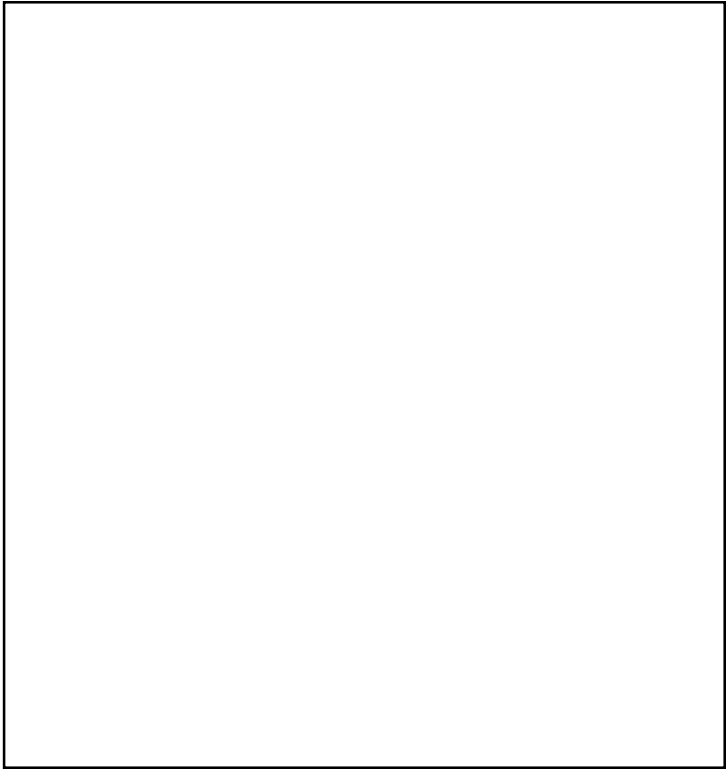
The Air Force rewards good ideas with money.

Check out the IDEA Program data system at

<https://ideas.randolph.af.mil>

or call

Tech. Sgt. Thomas Mayo at 298-4355.



Traffic-safety courses target vehicle fatalities

By Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – Air Force safety officials are unveiling four new traffic-safety programs in the coming months to battle the steady increase of traffic fatalities in the last four years.

“While no age, gender or rank group is immune to vehicle crashes, statistically speaking, our most at-risk population is young enlisted (Airmen),” said Chief Master Sgt. Clifford Tebbe, Air Force Safety Center ground safety superintendent.

While airmen basic through senior airmen make up 37 percent of the service’s workforce, they are the victims in 64 percent of fatal motor-vehicle crashes, Chief Tebbe said.

“They need to hear three things,”

he said. “They’re at risk, risk is manageable, and (they must) manage risk responsibly whenever and wherever they encounter it.”

The first course, slated for release by May 1, is Introductory Traffic Safety, to be followed this summer by a course targeting supervisors. By late summer, the Intermediate Traffic Safety Course should be available, with production for the final course beginning in August or September, Chief Tebbe said.

“This three-stage approach places traffic-safety and risk-management concepts before Airmen three times in their first 14 to 18 months of service,” he said. “The added supervisory piece is absolutely vital – they’re our first line of detection and defense.”

Traffic-safety courses are not new to the Air Force, but these programs

differ from their predecessors in several key areas, the first being focus.

“The Air Force has a very robust database portraying our mishap experience,” Chief Tebbe said. “We targeted our training efforts on the most represented behaviors: excessive speed for conditions, impaired driving, failure to use (seat belts and helmets) and fatigue.”

The second difference is in approach. Previous courses taught material one block at a time, where the new courses break the material into three segments using a stair-step or building-block approach, the chief said.

“We are not simply trying to teach concepts and skills,” he said. “We’re trying to communicate values. We want our Airmen to integrate risk management into their every activity, on

and off duty, and specifically ... when driving or operating a motorcycle.”

To bring the message home, course designers got personal.

“We are taking real Air Force mishaps, involving real (Airmen) and either using personal testimonials or case studies to make the link between what happened to someone else and what can happen to them,” Chief Tebbe said.

He said the idea to update the courses came in feedback from the field and is all about prevention.

“The real tragedy is that losses as a result of these three and other causes are 100-percent preventable,” he said. “We must get proactive. In the words of the late author, Sam Levenson, ‘You must learn from the mistakes of others – you can’t possibly live long enough to make them all yourself.’”

‘It pays to be a club member,’ Airman wins weekly drawing

By Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill
Public affairs

A lucky winner finally received the top money prize after 11 weeks of drawing for the jackpot at Club Amistad.

Airman 1st Class Christine Kline, a medical temporary duty certifying official with the 47th Medical Support Squadron, won the \$425 drawing April 16.

“I still can’t believe I won. Prayer really works,” Airman Kline said about winning the prize.

People hear all the time that “It pays to be a club member” because of the benefits it offers.

Airman Kline sees it as a \$425 benefit, but said getting discounted prices on club activities was the primary reason she decided to become an enlisted club member. Lunch specials and special events such as the comedy shows that have entertained audiences here recently are just a couple of examples Airman Kline pointed out.

The club has hosted three comedy shows since February, which have proven to be a great success, said Mike Easterly, Club Amistad’s manager.

“We’ve made every effort to not cut any corners on this event and have

brought to Laughlin some of the best-rated comedians available anywhere,” he said. “Every crowd has voiced their appreciation for this event, and anyone who has not been to one of them has truly missed out.”

An upcoming comedy show is scheduled for June 18.

Mr. Easterly said the base clubs offer a gathering place for people who want to socialize without having to wander so far from work, home and family. The 47th Services Division conducts the clubs’ operations, which support and facilitate a variety of functions and activities that include promotions and graduations to shows, tournaments and bingo.

“Most important of all,” said Mr. Easterly, “Services facilities are the only business in the world that puts 100 percent of its profit directly back into programs, events, equipment, and services for base members.”

The drawing at Club Amistad will be reset and start again this week. The first drawing tonight will be for \$100. If the person is not present, a second drawing for half that amount will take place. If that winner is not present, a third drawing for 10 percent of the top money prize will be conducted.

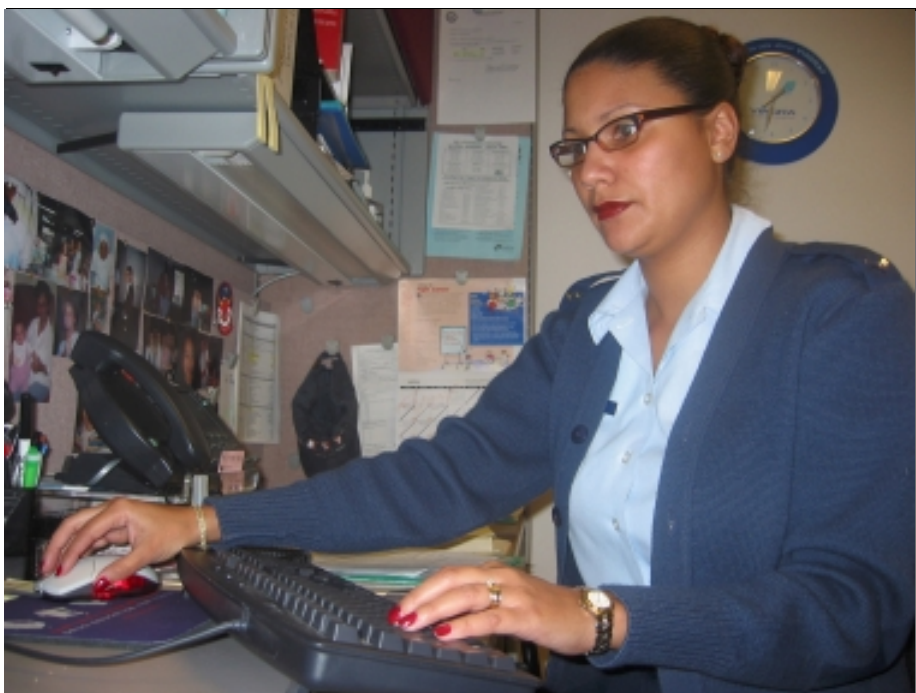


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill

Airman 1st Class Christine Kline, 47th Medical Support Squadron medical temporary duty certifying official, prepares temporary duty orders for medical appointments. Airman Kline said she can’t believe she won the weekly jackpot.

If the third person drawn is not present, then a final drawing will be made until there is a winner present. That winner gets a large pizza from Pepperoni’s.

“People have taken the first step in making the club better by just being a member,” said Mr. Easterly. “There is strength in numbers. Next, the members need to not only visit their club, but consider options such as the club advisory council, their true voice in

what’s happening in their club.”

The advisory council is a group of club members who gather on a regular basis with the club manager to establish future plans for the club.

“I truly believe that the club is essential to fellowship and teamwork,” said Mr. Easterly. “It is vital to this group of men and women who at any given day might be asked to once again step up and into harms way as a unified group.”



Photo by Master Sgt. Tammy Cournoyer

Falcon fiesta...

Cadet 3rd Class Robert Kurpiel introduces 2-year-old Reagan Laine to Echo, a prairie falcon, outside the Alamo in San Antonio Monday. Cadet Kurpiel and Echo, both from the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo., visited San Antonio to take part in the city's annual Fiesta celebration and teach people about the academy and its falcon mascots.

MPF tests upgrade to personnel data system

By Tech. Sgt.
Anthony Hill
Public affairs

Laughlin’s military personnel flight participated in a test-phase last week for an upgrade in one of the Air Force’s personnel systems.

The test, conducted here April 14-16, consisted of loading web plug-ins for the Military Personnel Data System and then accessing the program online through servers at the Air Force Personnel Center.

The data system, which has been in operation since June 2001, has run throughout the Air Force on local MPF servers to manage personnel data, such as updating decorations, evaluations and duty status.

Personnel staff, in addition to certain wing agencies that require update capability for information housed in the system, participated in the test, said Capt. Patricia Rodriguez-Rey, MPF commander here.

“The impact to Laughlin at-large is transparent,” she said. “This is not a capability

that anyone at Laughlin or around the Air Force can have. The test was an upgrade to the capability we already had. It helps the MPF and commanders’ support staff do their jobs a little faster.”

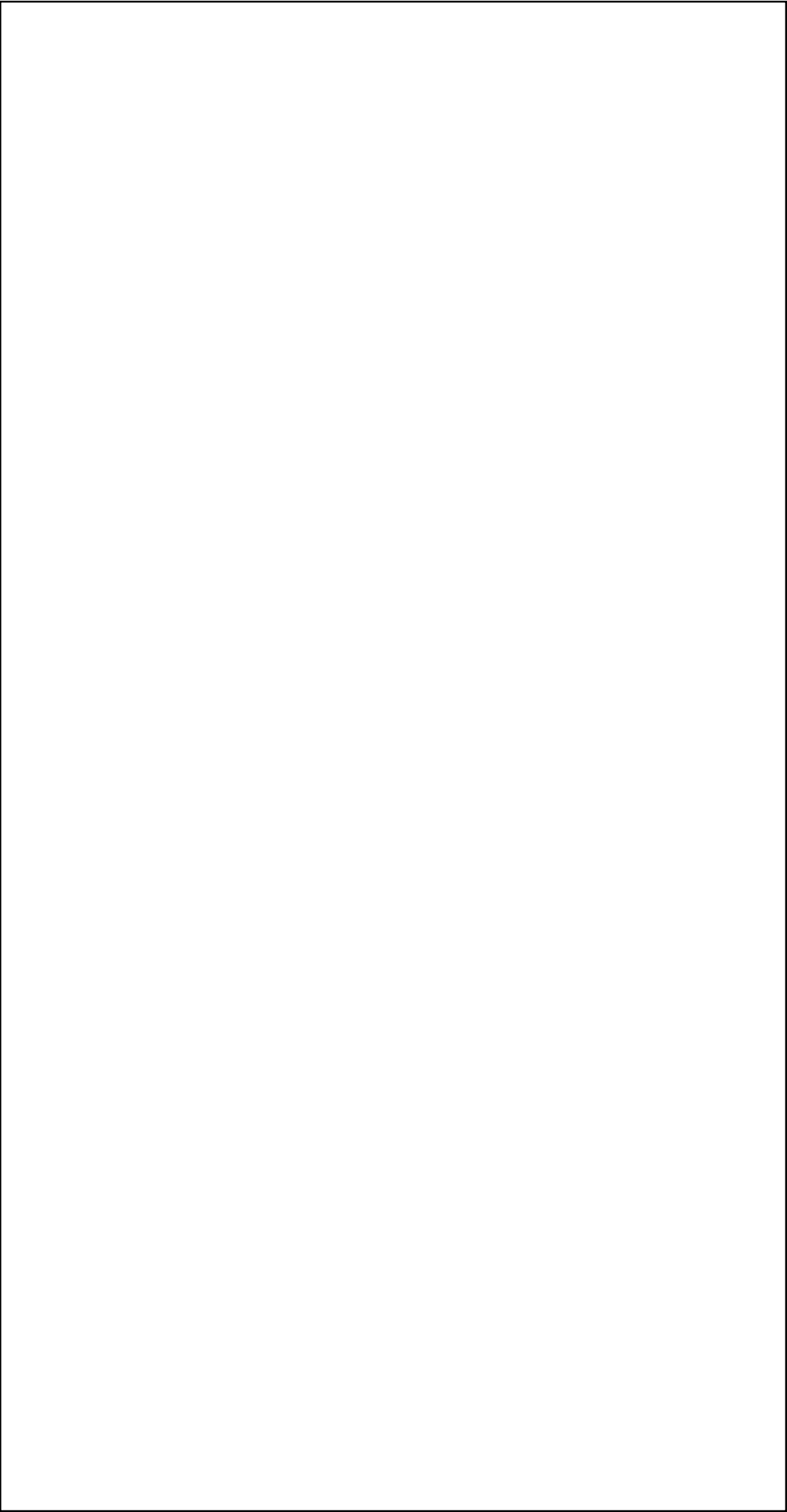
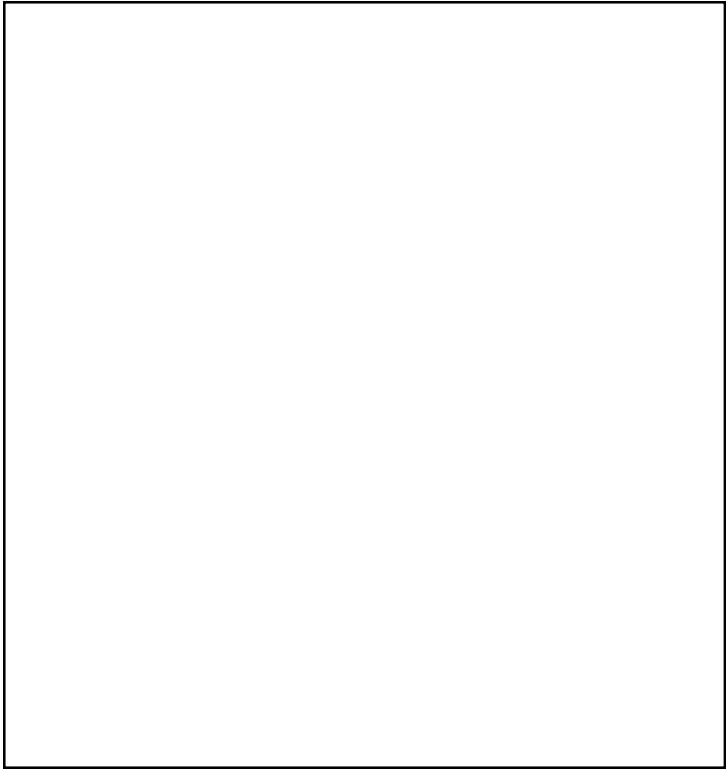
The personnel flight commander said processes that took days to complete in the past took only 45 seconds during the test.

Last week’s trial was the second of four phases being conducted by the Air Force. The first phase was loading the plug-in at the military personnel flight at Randolph Air Force Base.

“The test has been successful during both phases,” said Captain Rodriguez-Rey.

The assessment will expand to remote overseas sites and later to large military personnel flights throughout the United States to fully stress the AFPC servers and determine the program’s usage and capabilities, she said.

If the test phases are successful, full Air Force implementation will start in June and run through October.



Top 3's Partners in Education improve quality-of-life for Del Rio school, students

By Airman 1st Class
Olufemi Owolabi
Staff writer

More than 50 Laughlin members descended on Del Rio to assist in the second Partners in Education volunteer project at Del Rio High School Saturday.

The project, which involved sanding wood panels and instructors' classroom doors, removal of graffiti with paint thinner and application of varnish mix, was aimed at repairing damaged walls in the school.

Partners in Education is a Laughlin Top Three program designed to broaden communications between the base and schools in Del Rio by improving the quality-of-life for students in more than 13 schools in the community.

Apart from repair work, the program provides support for schools in areas such as painting, floor repair, computer connectivity and troubleshooting, and library and janitorial work depending on the schools' needs.

All labor and materials are provided to the schools at no cost.

"[The PIE committee] always looks at an assessment list, a list put together when the committee meets with the school district administrators and plant managers, which tells us the needs of each school and their priority," said Senior Master Sgt. Richard Conerly, PIE chairperson and the military personnel flight superintendent here. "We then decide which school to go to first and the number of volunteers to get the job done."

While the committee targets schools with a high attendance of military children, Sergeant Conerly said the services provided by the PIE program are not limited to schools with military children only.

"Our goal is to touch every school in the Del Rio community," he said.

The job's skill requirement is another factor considered by the committee in evaluating potential



Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi

Master Sgt. Jeffrey Cunningham, 47th Flying Training Wing career assistance advisor, puts a finishing touch to the painted teachers' office door during the Partners in Education project at Del Rio High School. Sergeant Cunningham is one of the 53 volunteers who exhibited good community relations by giving the damaged panels and doors of the school a new look April 17.

projects.

"We look at the expertise required to get the job done because some repairs, such as plumbing or sink replacement, require an experienced person," said Master Sgt. Timothy Henderson, 47th Operations Group command support staff superintendent.

"This is a project we can easily handle because it doesn't require a

lot of knowledge. It only requires manpower," said Master Sgt. Gail Henderson, superintendent of the base education and training center and a Top Three member.

More Laughlin members volunteered than were needed, which made the project go faster, said Sergeant Conerly. The committee requested 30 people, but more than 50 people turned out to fill the 30 volunteer

slots, which enabled the team to accomplish more than originally planned and finish ahead of schedule.

When more people show up than requested, the team extends the labor offering more to the community rather than turning down volunteers, Sergeant Conerly said.

Volunteers attributed success of the event to the overwhelming response and positive attitude of volunteers who came out to work on the school project.

"People were very motivated, enthusiastic about being here and willing to do what they needed to get the job done," said Sergeant (Gail) Henderson.

"Wherever we go, we help out," said Master Sgt. Jeffrey Cunningham, 47th Flying Training Wing career assistance advisor. "If there is a need, the Air Force always steps forward to help. It is a way of giving back to the community."

He said the program also builds cohesion between Laughlin members by working together.

Alfredo Barajas, the Del Rio High School custodian, said the volunteers showed a lot of teamwork and were well organized.

"The work done by the volunteers gives the damaged panels in the school a new look and will put smiles on the school authority's and students' faces when they return," he said.

According to Gilbert Hernandez, a professional painter who assisted the volunteers, the job would cost approximately \$7,000 if the school hired laborers.

Sergeant (Gail) Henderson, who, with her husband, helped in sanding and painting various panels, said the repairs would give the students an environment to be proud of.

Furthermore, she said it would show the students that one can develop a community though he does not reside permanently in that community.

"Wherever you work and live becomes your community," she said.

Community College of the Air Force hits milestone

Sheppard staff sergeant becomes 250,000th graduate

By Airman 1st Class
Jacque Lickteig
82nd Training Wing public
affairs

SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE – An aircraft maintenance instructor from the 362nd Training Squadron here will leave a footnote in the history books of the world's largest community college when he graduates April 23.

When Staff Sgt. Kalaeone Needham gets his associate degree, he will be the Community College of the Air Force's 250,000th graduate since its start in 1972, said Jim Mudd from the education office here.

He was honored at a ceremony April 19 at Air University headquarters at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

When Sergeant Needham started working toward his aircraft maintenance degree in December 2002, he said he did not know his journey through education would lead to a special presentation at CCAF headquarters.

"I was blown away," he said about being the 250,000th graduate. "This is an outstanding honor."

The CCAF began April 1, 1972, as a means to provide skill enhancement for noncommissioned officers.

The first official CCAF transcript was mailed Nov. 9, 1972, and the school's first credential, the Career Education Certificate, was awarded Aug. 23, 1973. Degree-granting authority was awarded in 1977 and an associate degree in applied science was the first CCAF degree awarded.

CCAF-affiliated schools are located in 35 states across the country, the District of Columbia, and in six foreign locations and one territory.

More than 1 million transcripts have been issued in the last 10 years and more than 1.7 million credit hours were earned in 2001 to 2002, officials said.

For more information about the CCAF degree program, call the Laughlin base education office at 298-5545 or go to the Web at www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jacque Lickteig

Staff Sgt. Kalaeone Needham (center) has students Airman Ryan Ross (left) and Airman 1st Class Sakawa Ogega point out F-16 Fighting Falcon parts during training at Sheppard Air Force Base. Sergeant Kalaeone is an instructor in the 362nd Training Squadron and the 250,000th Community College of the Air Force graduate.

New special-duty assignment process under way

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE – Enlisted assignments division officials at the Air Force Personnel Center here unveiled a new assignment process to account for many special-duty jobs now being coded as maximum tour assignments in the continental United States.

The new process, starting in mid-April, is called the CONUS Mandatory Mover program. The majority of those affected include: recruiters, military training instructors, military training leaders, technical training instructors, Air Education and Training Command's professional military education instructors and people assigned to joint/department agencies.

Airmen serving in these positions will compete for their next assignment using the Enlisted Quarterly Assignment Listing for Overseas Returnees once they reach their maximum tour date.

"We've got people in these spe-

cial jobs (who), for the good of professional development and the Air Force, need to get back into their primary specialty or mainstream Air Force," said Chief Master Sgt. Carlton McCoy, superintendent of the Airman assignments division at the center. "We've long recognized that Airmen in this category weren't being provided visibility to Air Force manning requirements. Adding them to the EQUAL process is necessary for the fairness, equity and visibility of their assignments."

The next listing for those returning from overseas August to October will be posted April 13. Around 600 to 800 CONUS Mandatory Movers whose maximum tour ends between August and October will also participate in this cycle.

Because these Airmen are being identified in advance, major commands can voice their requirements of where they need people the most.

Assignments officials take the number of CMMs and overseas returnees and create a list of available assignments on a one-for-one basis, said Master Sgt. Tammy Brangard, superintendent of first sergeant and special-duty assignments at the center.

"Because of the larger pool of potential movers, this program will enhance the opportunities out there," she said.

On the flip side, the Airman can also track his or her availability – something that could not be done before.

"Very similar to a [Date Eligible for Return from Overseas], these mandatory movers will know the timing of their (permanent change of station) and can update their preference sheet according to what's available," Sergeant Brangard said.

About 12 months before Airmen on a CMM tour reach the end of their assignment, they will be notified of

their options and given details of what can be expected.

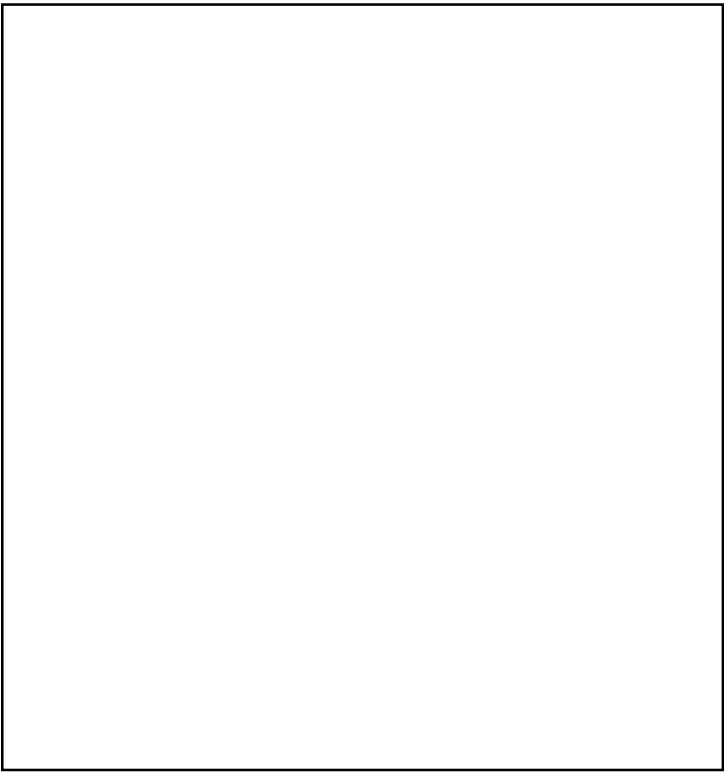
Those identified can apply for a base of preference assignment if they have enough time on station, compete for an EQUAL Plus special-duty job or move under the EQUAL Overseas Returnee/CMM program.

"While the needs of the Air Force come first, we're obligated to provide the troops the opportunity to align their preferences to Air Force needs ... and hopefully that helps them get to where they want to be," Chief McCoy said.

Airmen can go to the Assignment Management System online to see the assignment listings at <https://afas.afpc.randolph.af.mil/amsweb/master.cfm>

For more information, call Laughlin's military personnel flight at 298-5073 or call the Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775.

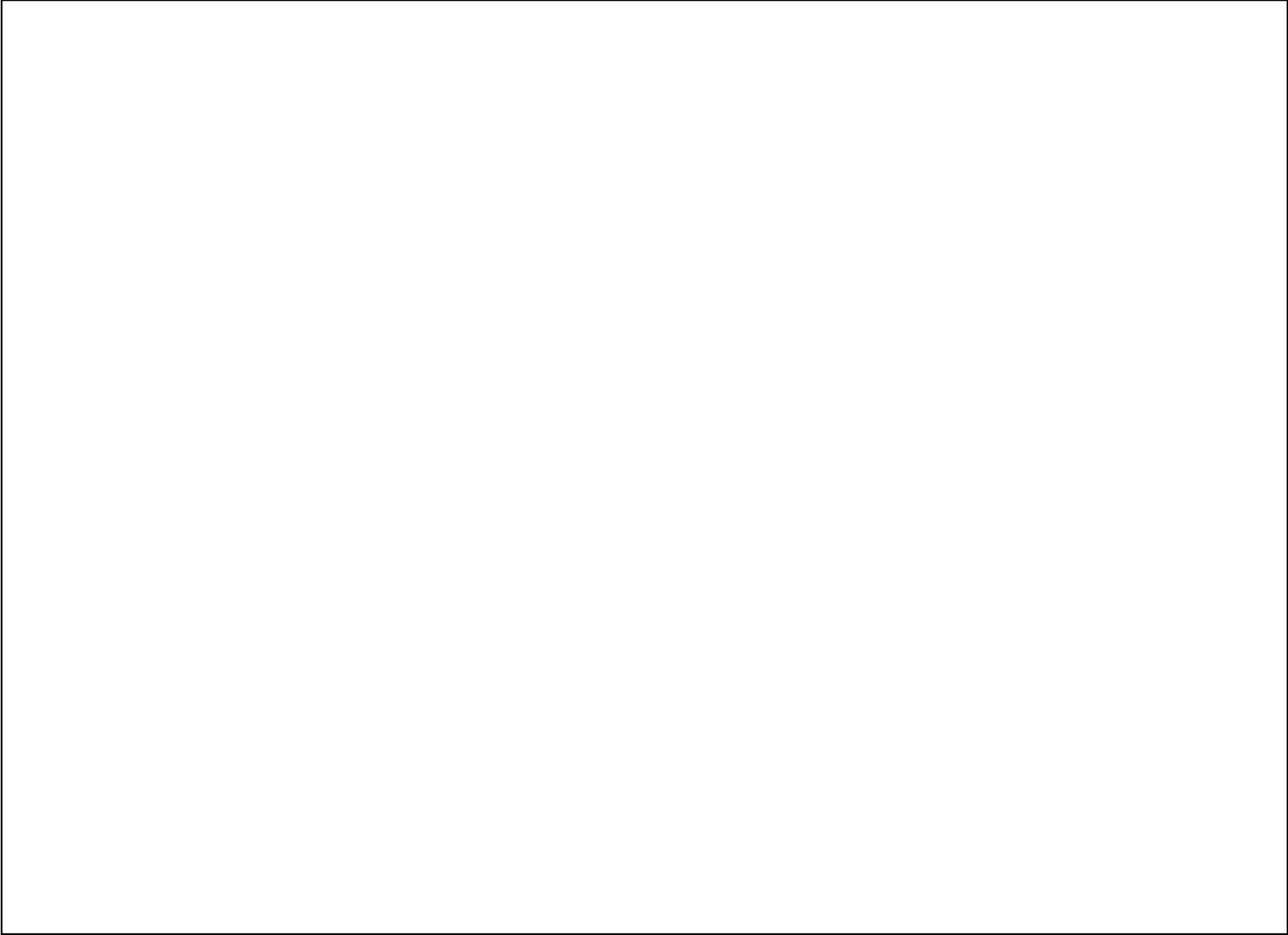
(Courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center News Service)



Courtesy photo

Money
time...

Tech. Sgt. Mark Deahl inventories \$1.6 million before the cash is placed in a vault. Sergeant Deahl is a pay agent at a forward-deployed location. He is from the 14th Flying Training Wing's comptroller flight at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.





Laughlin Salutes

47th Flying Training Wing first-quarter winners:

Airman:

■ Airman 1st Class Michael Fronk, 47th Communications Squadron

NCO:

■ Tech. Sgt. Glenn Houtchens, 47th CS

Senior NCO:

■ Master Sgt. Tracy Patterson, 47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron

Soldier:

■ Sgt. William Disoso, 47th Security Forces Squadron

Company grade officer:

■ 2nd Lt. Margaret Eichner, 47th Operations Group

Instructor pilot:

■ 1st Lt. Matthew Minkley, 85th Flying Training Squadron

Civilian category I:

■ Carla Rincones, 47th Mission Support Squadron

Civilian category II:

■ Anthony McKinney, 47th Medical Operations Squadron

Civilian category III:

■ Bobby Barrera, 47th MSS

Nonappropriated funds category I:

■ Ramona Garcia, 47th Services Division

Nonappropriated funds category II:

■ Kathy Harting, 47th SVS

Volunteer:

■ Master Sgt. Richard Crivens, 47th Contracting Squadron

Honor guard member:

■ Airman 1st Class, Yvonne Watkins, 47th ADS

Health and safety contributor:

■ Capt. Jennifer Harris, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron

Outstanding dormitory suite:

■ Senior Airman Christina Yatsko, 47th ADS

Outstanding dormitory:

■ Airman 1st Class Nicole Sefers, 47th Operations Support Squadron



Photo by Senior Airman Wes Auldrige

If you build it, they will come...

(Left to right) Tech. Sgt. Tom Stevens and Staff Sgts. Gary Garhammer and George Barnes erect a shelter at a forward-deployed location. The Airmen are assigned to the 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron.

The *XLer*

1st Lt. William Hartman
84th Flying Training Squadron



Photo by Senior Airman Timothy J. Stein

Hometown: Irvine, Calif.	Flying more hours than Capt. Winston “Woolly” Wolczak	things even if I’m too busy
Family: None for another two months		Favorite movie: “Three Amigos”
Time at Laughlin: Three years, six months	Hobbies: Watching the Lakers and driving to San Antonio to see my fiancée	If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be?
Time in service: Three years, nine months	Bad habit: Saying yes when people ask me to do	Either one of my grandpas. They did incredible things.
Greatest accomplishment:		

Chapel information



Catholic

- Monday - Friday* ● Mass, 12:05 p.m.
- Saturday* ● Mass, 5 p.m., Reconciliation, 4:15 p.m. or by appointment
- Sunday* ● Mass, 9:30 a.m., Religious Education, 11 a.m.
- Thursday* ● Choir: 6 p.m., Rite of Christian Initiation, 7:30 p.m.

Protestant

- Wednesday* ● Choir, 7 p.m.; Protestant Women of the Chapel Ladies’ Bible Study, 9 a.m.
- Sunday* ● General worship, 11 a.m., Contemporary worship, 9 a.m. in the base theater

Chaplain Staff

- Wing chaplain:* Chap. (Lt. Col.) Joseph Lim, Roman Catholic
- Senior Protestant:* Chap. (Capt.) Terri Gast, Presbyterian Church, USA
- Protestant:* Chap. (Capt.) Alex Jack, Independent Christian Church
- Protestant:* Chap. (1st Lt.) Kenneth Fisher, Evangelical Church Alliance

For more information on other denominations, chapel events or services, call 298-5111. For information on special events, see the Community Calendar on page 16.

It’s your Future.

VOTE

for it!

The
Commander’s Access Channel

Tune in to
Cable Channel 34
for up-to-date information about
events and activities
happening at Laughlin.

**ONLINE
news**

Access breaking news
at United States Air
Force Online News, the
official
newspaper of the
United States Air
Force. A simple click
to www.af.mil/news/
keeps you informed
about events.



Photo by Capt. Andrew Bell

Keeping an eye on things...

First Lt. Robert Moore (bottom left) surveys off-base terrain near here with Dutch Lt. Jeroen Mol (bottom right), an intelligence officer, while Dutch Sgt. Mark deVos takes a stand-off security position. The event was part of a combined U.S. and Dutch base-security assessment designed to improve the defensive posture at Tallil Air Base, Iraq. Lieutenant Moore is assigned to the 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.

84/85th FTS sweeps 47th CES in volleyball game

By Senior Airman
Timothy J. Stein
Editor

The combined team of the 84th and 85th Flying Training Squadrons defeated the 47th Civil Engineer Squadron, 2-0, in a best-of-three volleyball intramural match at the fitness center Wednesday.

Both teams fought hard and the 84/85th were able to make the big plays when they counted most.

The teams traded off points at the beginning of the first game. The 84/85th eventually took a slight 8-4 lead after capitalizing on several CES missed serves. CES bounced back after an 84/85th bad serve and brought the game to within two with some offense of their own.

The teams battled back and forth in this fashion for the entire first game of the match. Eventually the 84/85th squad pulled out a 25-22 victory.

The second game played out even closer than the first.

The 84/85th took an early 2-0 lead but then lost the serve and CES tied it up. The teams traded several points after that until the score was tied at 8-8 with the 84/85th owning the serve. They scored four points giving them their largest lead of the night.

CES rallied to tie the score at 15. Neither team could pull ahead of the other for long. After trading a few more points, CES went on a four-point run, giving them a 22-18 lead in the 25 point match.

The 84/85th squad now had to fight back, which they did, eventually tying the score up at 24. They scored the next point but needed one more to secure the victory. But CES wasn't giving up. Every time it looked like 84/85th had the game, CES would put points on the board as well. The 84/85th defense finally sealed the win with a blocked CES spike.

The 84/85th walked away with a 30-28 victory in the second game, giving them the match at 2-0.

Fit to Fight Warrior of the Week

1st Lt. Kendra Lowe
47th Mission Support Squadron



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill

Fitness philosophy: Get out there and be active every day
Favorite healthy treat: Healthy popcorn

Fitness assessment score: 99.25
Fitness tip: If you don't feel like working out, give it a try for five minutes and then de-

cide. You may surprise yourself.
Fitness goals: To remain committed to a healthy and physically fit lifestyle

Volleyball standings

(As of Thursday)

Western Conference

Team	W-L
CCS	4-0
MED	4-1
CES	3-2
MSS/Wing	1-3
SFS	0-5

Eastern Conference

Team	W-L
87th	4-0
84/85th	3-1
86th	2-2
OSS	2-3

Fitness Fact:

If You Quit Smoking Now... within 20 minutes your blood pressure and pulse return to normal. Within eight hours the level of oxygen in your blood rises to normal.

In 24 hours your risk of heart attack starts to drop. In two days your senses of smell and taste improve. In three days breathing gets easier and lung capacity increases.

Within two weeks to three months your circulation gets better. Within one to nine months coughing, sinus problems and shortness of breath decrease and you have more energy.



XL Fitness Center hours

Monday - Thursday:
5 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Friday:
5 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday - Sunday:
7 a.m. to 8. p.m.

Holidays:
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.